

## Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-13 DHA-02 ACDA-10 EB-08 COME-00  
INT-05 TRSE-00 OMB-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02  
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02  
SS-15 USIA-15 /106 W  
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R 202220Z APR 77  
FM AMEMBASSY BRASILIA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1193  
INFO AMCONSUL RIO DE JANEIRO  
AMCONSUL SAO PAULO

UNCLAS BRASILIA 3174

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: PFOR US BR  
SUBJECT: REACTION TO CARTER UN SPEECH

REF: A. STATE 84912 B. BRASILIA 3028 C. BRASILIA 3070

1. SUMMARY. REACTION TO PRESIDENT CARTER'S OAS ADDRESS HAS BEEN DILUTED BECAUSE OF INTENSE INTEREST IN NEWS RELEASED SAME DAY OF GEISEL - DECREED REFORM PACKAGE WHICH SUBSTANTIALLY CHANGED RULES OF POLITICAL GAME IN BRAZIL. FEW EDITORIAL COMMENT WHICH HAVE APPEARED, HAVE COMPLIMENTED PRESIDENT'S INTENT TO DEAL ON BILATERAL BASIS IN REGION, AND NOTED RE-AFFIRMATION OF PRESIDENT TO CAUSE OF HUMAN RIGHTS. WHILE ITAMARATY HAS NOT OFFICIALLY COMMENTED, "DIPLOMATIC SOURCES" HAVE GRUMBLED TO PRESS THAT PRESIDENT "HID HIMSELF BEHIND RHETORIC" IN SPEECH. END SUMMARY.

2. REACTION TO PRESIDENT CARTER'S OAS ADDRESS WAS DILUTED BY NEWS THE SAME DAY OF PRESIDENT GEISEL'S EXTENSIVE PACKAGE OF CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS WHICH CHANGED BRAZIL'S ELECTION PROCESS EXTENSIVELY (REF C). THE GEISEL DECREES AND REACTION HAVE SINCE DOMINATED THE FRONT AND EDITORIAL PAGES  
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WITH THE CARTER SPEECH RELEGATED TO LESSER COVERAGE. NEVERTHELESS, AS REF B INDICATES, THE MEDIA DID INITIALLY COVER THE CARTER SPEECH BROADLY.

3. ITAMARATY DID NOT COMMENT OFFICIALLY ON THE SPEECH, BUT JORNAL DO BRASIL REPORTED DIPLOMATIC SOURCES AS CLAIMING THE PRESIDENT "HID HIMSELF BEHIND RHETORIC" IN THE SPEECH.

PAPER INDICATED DIPLOMATIC SOURCES WERE DISAPPOINTED BY THE POLITICAL SECTIONS, BUT PLEASED THAT PRESIDENT HAD ADMITTED THERE WERE SOME FLAWS IN THE US TRADE LAW. JORNAL REPORTED DIPLOMATS WERE CONCERNED OVER PRESIDENT'S REFERENCES TO HUMAN RIGHTS, PARTICULARLY PORTION IN WHICH PRESIDENT INDICATED "OUR VALUES AND YOURS REQUIRE US TO COMBAT ABUSES OF INDIVIDUAL FREEDOM" AND HIS STATEMENT THAT US WOULD STAND WITH THOSE COUNTRIES WHICH RESPECT HUMAN RIGHTS. DIPLOMATS CLAIMED TO JORNAL THAT CARTER STATEMENTS DID NOT RE-OPEN CRISIS IN US-GOB RELATIONS, BUT DID POSTPONE RESOLUTION.

4. APRIL 15 EDITORIAL IN JORNAL DO BRASIL CALLED SPEECH THE EQUIVALENT OF ROOSEVELT'S ANNOUNCEMENT OF GOOD NEIGHBOR POLICY. PAPER PRAISED CARTER FOR RECOGNIZING THAT SINGLE OR GENERAL POLICY FOR THE REGION WAS MEANINGLESS, AND THAT US WOULD BE TAKING INTO ACCOUNT UNIQUENESS OF EACH STATE. JORNAL CONCLUDED, "THE SINCERE PURPOSES WHICH HAVE CLEARLY INSPIRED HIM SHOW THAT TEMPORARY OR EVENTUAL DISAGREEMENT WILL NOT BRING ABOUT IRREVERSIBLE DIVISIONS." JORNAL EDITORIAL APRIL 18 NOTED THAT ONE OF MOST IMPORTANT ASPECTS OF PRESIDENT'S SPEECH WAS STATEMENT THAT LATIN AMERICA IS A IMPORTANT TO THE US AS THE US IS TO LATIN AMERICA. THIS SOOTHED BRAZILIAN FEARS THAT THE US IS HOSTILE TO LATIN AMERICA IN GENERAL AND BRAZIL IN PARTICULAR. JORNAL'S WASHINGTON COLUMNIST NOTED THAT PRESIDENT MADE AN INDIRECT OFFER TO BRAZIL AND ARGENTINA TO JOIN IN DISARMAMENT WHEN HE INDICATED US WOULD SIGN THE TREATY OF TLAELOLCO, AND THAT HE HAD NOT INDICATED ANY LINKAGE BETWEEN HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUE AND INVESTMENT IN LATIN AMERICA BY INTERNATIONAL BANKS.

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5. ESTADO REPORTED THAT NON-GOVERNMENTAL COUNCIL ON HEMISPHERIC AFFAIRS NOTED THAT PRESIDENT DID NOT MENTION SPECIAL RELATIONS WITH BRAZIL, A CONCEPT WHICH "MUST BE CONSIDERED DEAD." ESTADO'S CORRESPONDENT IN WASHINGTON CLAIMED SPEECH DID NOT ANNOUNCE A NEW POLICY BUT PRESENTED A "NEW FOCUS," EMPHATICALLY REAFFIRMING CARTER'S DEDICATION TO HUMAN RIGHTS. ESTADO CALLED THIS ALL THE MORE FORCEFUL BECAUSE IT WAS DONE IN THE PRESENCE OF AMBASSADORS FROM COUNTRIES THAT ARE NOT CHAMPIONS OF HUMAN RIGHTS.

6. INFLUENTIAL GAZETA MERCANTIL EDITORIALIZED THAT EUPPMACX OF NEW ADMINISTRATION IS IN AN "OPPORTUNE PHASE OF POLITICAL MATURITY". PAPER APPLAUDED CARTER'S PREFERENCES FOR BILATERAL CONSULTATIONS WHICH IT SAW IN SPEECH, AND ALLUDED TO POSSIBLE LESSER ROLE FOR OAS FORUM. PAPER CONCLUDED THAT SPEECH WAS "A POSITIVE FACT" IN GOB-USG RELATIONS" ESPECIALLY AT THIS MOMENT.

7. JORNAL DE BRASILIA COLUMNIST HIGHLIGHTING CARTER SPEECH  
FOUND PRESIDENT'S STATEMENT ABOUT HUMAN RIGHTS "LESS AGGRESSIVE  
AND INTOLERANT" AND ON THE WHOLE ABLE TO HELP IMPROVE US-  
LATING AMERICAN RELATIONS. COLUMNIST COMPLEMENTED CARTER  
COMMITMENT TO CANAL TRAEATY AND HIS CHARACTERIZATION OF PAST  
US RELATIONSHIP TO THE CANAL AS "NO LONGER APPROPRIATE OR  
EFFICIENT". COLUMNIST AGREED WITH PRESIDENT THAT A  
SINGLE POLICY FOR LATIN AMERICA MADE LITTLE SENSE, APPLAUDING  
FACT THAT CARTER ADMINISTRATION WOULD BREAK WITH PAST DEMOCRATIC  
PARTY TRADITION OF TREATING LATIN AMERICA AS A WHOLE.  
CRIMMINS

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## Message Attributes

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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
22 May 2009  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009